

REMARKS

Status Of Claims

Claims 54, 57, 66, and 69 are pending.

The rejection of claims 54, 57, 66, and 69 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 54, 57, 66, and 69 stand rejected as unclear for the phrases “specific binding” and “wherein the ligand has been previously demonstrated to bind to the cellular protein.” While applicants do not concede that either of these terms renders the claims unclear, the terms have been deleted from the claims in order to advance prosecution.

Withdrawal of this rejection is thereby respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 54 and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 54 and 66 stand rejected as obvious over Goodson in view of Zhou, as evidenced by Bigge. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of the rejected claims has been amended to recite the use of ligands of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 3. None of the prior art, either alone or in combination suggests the use of such ligands. Goodson teaches the use of phage in a competitive binding assay with a receptor-binding compound. Zhou is cited as teaching the binding of certain peptide analogs of Conatokin-G to NMDA receptors. Bigge is cited as teaching that peptide analogs with improved binding properties can be useful to antagonize NMDA receptors. None of the cited prior art, however, teaches the ligands of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 3, as recited in claims 54 and 66 as amended.

To reject a claim as anticipated, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because the cited combination of prior art fails to teach an element of the claims, *i.e.*, the ligands of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 3,

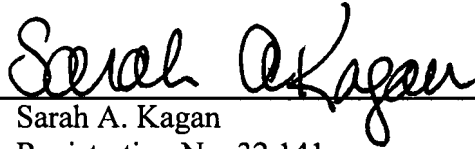
the cited combination must fail to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

The prompt allowance of all pending claims is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

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